



# M E D I A   R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 7, 2005

## **TENNCARE ISSUES “REQUEST FOR INFORMATION” TO RECRUIT NEW MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS TO TENNCARE PROGRAM**

NEW MIDDLE TENNESSEE MCOs TO ASSUME GREATER RISK,  
INTEGRATE SERVICES FOR MOST ENROLLEES

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The State of Tennessee took the first step in recruiting new managed care organizations to the TennCare program by issuing a Request for Information (RFI) today. The RFI asks for responses to a series of questions from interested companies regarding a proposed model for the delivery of care to TennCare enrollees in middle Tennessee.

“We have turned the corner on getting control of the program’s finances and are returning our focus to improving the TennCare network and the daily operation of the program,” said J.D. Hickey, Deputy Commissioner for the TennCare Bureau. “This bid process seeks to recruit managed care organizations with substantial prior experience in the Medicaid population.”

Key components of the revised concept model outlined in the RFI include:

- A capitated model with two new MCOs that will each serve the middle Tennessee region
- Majority-risk contract arrangements with potential for state outlier catastrophic support
- Improved continuity of care through integrated behavioral and physical health services for enrollees that are provided by a single contracted entity
- More aggressive disease management
- Increased incentives for services provided to children
- TennCare Select acting as it was designed: the state’s back up plan that also includes children served by DCS and children who are SSI eligible.

The state is taking a deliberate and thoughtful approach to developing this new service model that will include protections for vulnerable mental health enrollees, including those with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and children who are seriously emotionally disturbed (SED).

“As I have long advocated, an integrated care delivery model would allow the state to improve quality of care for the majority of TennCare enrollees” said Virginia Trotter Betts, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. “At this stage, we are still considering a variety of options to best serve our most vulnerable mental health populations, and we will carefully analyze the feedback from this process to ensure the proper model is developed that benefits the State and our enrollees.”

(more)

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Interested organizations must submit their responses to the TennCare Bureau by December 5. The Bureau intends to use these responses to generate a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be issued in January 2006. The RFI can be found on the TennCare web site, [www.tennessee.gov/tenncare](http://www.tennessee.gov/tenncare).

TennCare is Tennessee's expanded Medicaid program, providing health insurance coverage to 1.2 million Tennesseans including 640,000 children.

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